

U S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
 Soper Avenue Groundwater Site - Removal Polrep  
 Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 Region V

**Subject:** POLREP #4  
 Final Polrep  
 Soper Avenue Groundwater Site  
 C595  
 Rockford, IL  
 Latitude: 42.2882979 Longitude: -89.1241901

**To:** Carol Fuller, IEPA  
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**From:** Bradley Benning, OSC

**Date:** 4/11/2012

**Reporting Period:** 2/25/2012 to 4/3/2012

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	C595	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S5-09-05
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	Task Order 86	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	1/10/2012
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	2/21/2012	<b>Start Date:</b>	10/19/2011
<b>Demob Date:</b>	3/30/2012	<b>Completion Date:</b>	4/3/2012
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	ILN000510656	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	LPC#2012085009
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Time-Critical Removal Action

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

Benzene contamination and other chemicals typical found in fuels such as gasoline were discovered in private wells in June 2011 on Soper Avenue and Alliance Avenue north of Auburn Street and west of Central Avenue in the northwest portion of Rockford.

Winnebago County Health Department and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) worked together to collect samples from private wells in the area on three occasions during June, August and September after being informed of fuel-like odors from private well water. Contaminants discovered in some private wells are from a family of chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are commonly found in fuels such as gasoline, diesel and home heating fuel. The most recent set of well water samples was taken on September 14, 2011. Twenty-five wells have been tested in all, some more than once.

The state and county health departments' primary role is to insure that people who have private wells are aware of the risks associated with using the groundwater. The two agencies have been interpreting private well test results the past three months and explaining to well users any potential health implications. Illinois EPA's role is to investigate the source or sources of the groundwater contamination to determine whether the source or sources can be cleaned up or effectively stopped from contributing to groundwater contamination. The agencies are working together to determine the extent of any risk to public health and the source(s) of the contamination.

Illinois EPA is requesting assistance from U.S. EPA to provide alternative drinking water supplies for residential homes that have exceeded MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Level) for benzene.

#### **1.1.2.1 Location**

The Area of Concern (AOC) is located in the Northwest side of Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois. After the initial notification to Winnebago Health Dept. concerning odors in private wells, the County held an informational meeting with the Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) for residents to gather information on contamination and sign up for testing. Based on sampling results the scope of the area has been limited to private wells in the area of Johnston Avenue to the West; Alliance Avenue to the East; Auburn Street to the South, and Parkside Avenue to the North.

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Currently four residents in the AOC exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Benzene of 5 ppb, with the highest level detected of 1300 ppb. Exposure to benzene at the levels found in the area, private wells over long periods of time may lead to disorders of the blood and bone marrow system, such as anemia, and may increase the lifetime risk of cancer.

#### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Winnebago County Health Department and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) worked together to collect samples from private wells in the area on three occasions during June, August and September after being informed of fuel-like odors from private well water. Contaminants discovered in some private wells are from a family of chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are commonly found in fuels such as gasoline, diesel and home heating fuel. The most recent set of well water samples was taken on September 14, 2011. Twenty-five wells have been tested in all, some more than once.

Current assessment results indicate that four residents exceed the MCL for benzene of 5 ppb. Additionally, other VOCs were detected including Ethyl Benzene, Xylene, Toluene. IEPA is continuing their investigation to determine the potential source of the contamination, with the installation of various monitoring wells to determine groundwater direction, and potential contaminant sources.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

All removal activities have been completed at the Soper Ave. Groundwater Site located in Rockford, IL. Landscape restoration was the final task to be completed. 15 homes were connected to the Rockford Public Water System and 1 home was provided a whole-house carbon filtration system.

## 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

2/29/2012 - All connection work and associated plumbing was completed on 15 homes. The final home on Auburn St. required additional work by the City of Rockford to install the valve box in front of the home. Additional vapor intrusion sampling was conducted at three homes at the northeast corner of the Area of Concern (AOC). Perchloroethylene (PCE) was previously detected in the sub-slab at a home on Alliance Ave., additional sampling was conducted to determine if PCE was detected in the indoor air. Two additional homes were sampled near this home, one to the south and one to the west to determine if PCE was also present in sub-slab and indoor air samples.

3/7/2012 - Analytical results were received from the laboratory and reviewed by ATSDR. PCE was not detected in any of the indoor air results. Other VOC compounds were detected in the indoor air results but not in the sub-slab results, and were likely indoor contaminants. The other detections were either well below screening levels or likely lab contaminants.

3/8/2012 - The whole-house carbon filtration unit was installed in the final home on Johnston Ave.

3/30/2012 - Landscape restoration consisting of grading, top soil and seeding was completed at all homes.

4/3/2012 - OSC conducted a final inspection and confirmed all work had been completed.

## 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

The IEPA investigation may lead to Potentially Responsible Parties as the source of the contamination. Potential enforcement action to recover Agency costs will be evaluated.

## 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Not Applicable

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

No additional removal activities are anticipated.

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

No additional response activities are planned.

#### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Complete close-out activities. Coordinate with IEPA on investigation results to determine if any enforcement actions are warranted.

### 2.2.2 Issues

No issues are remaining.

## 2.3 Logistics Section

Task Order has been issued to Environmental Restoration to perform the Removal Action. Bids have been received from three local plumbing contractors. Selected contractor will provide all personnel and equipment to complete the scope of work

Stenstrom Excavating was awarded the contract, and will be utilizing Pearson Plumbing and Kirby Cable

## **2.4 Finance Section**

### **2.4.1 Narrative**

Current Removal Action is funded for \$152,500 to provide bottled water and to perform the anticipated water connections. Action Memo was signed 1/10/2012

## **2.5 Other Command Staff**

### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

ATSDR is currently assisting with the removal action providing input on health concerns

### **2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

Not Applicable

### **2.5.3 Information Officer**

Cheryl Allen is the CIC, and is working with the Local, State and County personnel. A Fact Sheet has currently been distributed. The Availability Session was held on Dec 5, 2010. A CIP is being drafted for the Site.

## **3. Participating Entities**

### **3.1 Unified Command**

U.S. EPA, IEPA, IDPH and Winnebago Health will comprise the Unified Command

### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

ATSDR  
City of Rockford

## **4. Personnel On Site**

OSC - 1  
Weston - 1  
ERRS - 1  
Stenstrom - 3  
Pearson Plumbing - 3  
Kirby Drilling - 2

## **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

## **6. Additional sources of information**

### **6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

[www.epaosc.net/SoperAvenueGroundwater](http://www.epaosc.net/SoperAvenueGroundwater)

[sfuller@wchd.gov](mailto:sfuller@wchd.gov)

[carol.fuller@illinois.gov](mailto:carol.fuller@illinois.gov)

[allen.cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:allen.cheryl@epa.gov)

## **6.2 Reporting Schedule**

Anticipate weekly SitReps

## **7. Situational Reference Materials**

Northwest Rockford Area of Fuel Contaminated Groundwater Fact Sheet